

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-23 are currently pending in this application. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-6 and 8-19 have been amended to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. New claims 20-23 have also been added to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 20030105722 (hereinafter Welt) in view of US 6,115,690 (hereinafter Wong).

The present invention is a system and method for processing order transactions between a supplier and a purchaser. The purchaser places an order with the supplier, and receives from the supplier an electronic report with details of the order. The report formatting is specified by the purchaser. It is contemplated that the purchaser has a separate computerized system, such as a system for tracking or analyzing purchases, which can import files having a particular format. The format specified by the purchaser for the order detail report conforms to that input file format. The purchaser's computer system can then directly import the order detail report provided by the supplier, thereby relieving the purchaser of having to manually input order data into his computer system. The purchaser can specify the data fields contained in the report, the format of the data fields, the format of the report, and the file type of the report, such as ASCII, TXT, HTML, XML, or a database format. The specified formats are stored in a purchaser

profile and used to generate order reports sent to the purchaser, such as after each new order is placed.

In contrast, Welt discloses an internet-based, business-to-business web site which aggregates product information from a plurality of vendors into a common display format. A buyer is identified to the web site, and through a series of displays, the buyer navigates the departments or product categories for which he is authorized to make purchases, the approved vendors of products in those categories, and the approved products of those vendors, from which the buyer selects his purchases and places an order. The web site then forwards the order to the respective vendors for fulfillment. Tracking and payment mechanisms are also provided. Thus, Welt acts as a filter which allows only authorized products to be ordered from approved vendors, and forwards the orders to the vendors. Welt does not provide an order detail report to the buyer, and so of course does not provide for the buyer to specify formatting of such a report, as does the present application.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 10, the Examiner admits that Welt differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose a device for the creation and output of a file containing data fields representing order data, nor a transmission device for the transmission of such a file to the purchaser. The Examiner looks to Wong for these features.

Wong discloses an integrated business-to-business web commerce and business automation system, which integrates and automates various aspects of a supplier's business. The system uses a computing model based on a single integrated database management system (DBMS) that is provided with a Web front-end, and integrates the supplier's sales, support, accounting, purchasing, receiving, assembly, shipping and return functions. Wong also does not

provide an order detail report to a buyer, nor does Wong provide for the buyer to specify formatting of such a report, as does the present application.

The Examiner states on page 3 of the office action that Wong discloses a device for creating and outputting a file which contains data fields of an order placed by a purchaser, and a transmission device for transmitting the file to the purchaser (Wong column 2 lines 43-47, and column 4 lines 23-26, respectively). On the contrary, in the first cited location (column 2 lines 43-47), Wong does not disclose a device for outputting a file containing data of a purchaser's order which is sent to the purchaser. Rather, Wong therein describes the broad problem in the prior art of general business information fragmentation within the supplier's business organization. According to the prior art business model, regarding general business information (and not regarding order information in particular), "Information is transported from one place to another, either in hardcopy form, necessitating re-entry, or in such electronic form as to require substantial massaging". That Wong is describing general business information and not information of a particular order is further made clear in the subsequent lines, "A business executive, for lack of readily-available, accurate, verifiable information in usable form, must then rely heavily on subordinates to obtain a picture (hopefully accurate) of what is happening inside the company." (Wong column 2 lines 49-53). Thus, the information described by Wong in the lines cited by the Examiner is general information regarding "what is happening inside the company", and not "order data", as in the present application. Furthermore, nothing in the cited lines is directed to a device which creates and outputs a file containing the order data.

Regarding the second cited section of Wong, the Examiner states that Wong discloses a transmission device for transmitting to the purchaser the file containing the purchaser's order data (Wong column 4 lines 23-26) in a similar manner as claim 1 of the present application. This

cannot be the case, since as was shown above, Wong does not disclose creating and outputting a file containing order information at all. On the contrary, in the cited lines Wong describes the business situation of a just-in-time product reseller, whose "product list is updated electronically in real time or at regular intervals from various sources". Thus, it is not information on products that have been ordered that is being transmitted to a purchaser, as in the present application. Rather, it is information on products that are available to be ordered that is being transmitted to a seller in Wong.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 10 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-9 and 11-19 depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Without prejudice to their individual merits, these claims are also allowable over the cited prior art of record for the same reasons provided above.

Furthermore, the Examiner cites other portions of Wong for claim limitations that simply do not exist there. For example, regarding claim 5, the Examiner cites Wong column 28 lines 55-64 for a device for selecting which order data is to be included in a file to be sent from a supplier to a purchaser. On the contrary, Wong at that location describes the unrelated ability of Wong's system to handle notes input by users pertaining to various aspects of a transaction, as illustrated in Figure 68 of Wong. Figure 68 shows a screen shot of a computer application, cut into four sections and placed on four sheets, 68A-D. Figures 68C-D shows the portion of the screen wherein a user can type information pertaining to various aspects of the transaction, such as unique aspects of shipping or installation, return merchandise authorization (RMA), or standard notes from a customer or vendor file. This has nothing to do with a purchaser specifying which portions of order data should be included in a file to be sent to him so that he can input order information into his own computer without having to retype it, as does claim 5.

Claim 13 is an analogous method, including the step of a purchaser specifying the data fields contained in the file before it is sent to him. The Examiner cites Wong column 13 lines 45-49 for this feature. However, at the cited location Wong describes part of an ordering process wherein a user has items in a so-called “shopping basket”, from which the user can “create a quote” (column 13 line 47), cancel the order and empty the shopping basket, or continue shopping. Notably, if the user chooses to create a quote and then places an actual order, as described in the remainder of column 13 through column 14 line 32, the order is placed by “submitting the quote to the sale representative”. In other words, at the cited location, order items are selected by a user to create a quote, and the quote is sent to the supplier’s sales representative to be processed as an order. This is in stark contrast to claim 13, wherein data fields contained in a file of order information are specified by the purchaser before the file is sent to the purchaser.

Another example is regarding claim 6, where the Examiner cites Wong column 13 lines 11-16 for a device for selecting the sequence of the data fields in the file sent from the supplier to the purchaser. On the contrary, Wong at that location describes a product search screen, as shown in Figure 4, with which the user can search for products which are available from the supplier, such as by part number, manufacturer or part description. This has nothing to do with a purchaser specifying the sequence of the data fields in a file sent to him so that he can input order information into his own computer without having to retype it, as does claim 6. Other citations to Wong are similarly unrelated to the claims of the present invention, since Wong does not disclose or suggest, alone or in combination with the other prior art of record, creating a file containing order information in accordance with a file format and data fields, formats, and sequences specified by the purchaser, and sending the file to the purchaser.

Conclusion

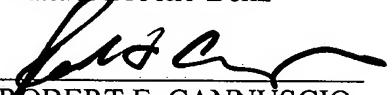
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-6 and 7-23, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The current office action indicated that the certified copy of the priority document had not yet been received. Applicant's representative has ordered a copy and will be submitting it shortly.

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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